

What is claimed is:

1. An imaging apparatus comprising:

image capturing means for obtaining image data;

image selection means for selecting a desired portion of
5 the image data to be sent to an addressee that generates printed
matter therefrom; and

image storage means for storing the image data obtained
by the imaging means and the portion of the image data selected
by the image selection means as selected image data.

10 2. An imaging apparatus as defined in Claim 1, further
comprising:

communication means for carrying out data communication
with wireless communication equipment;

addressee storage means for storing the addressee;

15 authentication information storage means for storing
authentication information that is necessary for the data
communication with the wireless communication; and

control means for carrying out judgment as to whether or
not the communication means is within a communicable range of
20 the wireless communication equipment and for controlling the
communication means so as to send the authentication
information stored in the authentication information storage
means to the wireless communication equipment by carrying out
the data communication with the wireless communication
25 equipment in the case where a result of the judgment is

affirmative and so as to send the selected image data to the addressee via the wireless communication equipment after the wireless communication equipment authenticates the imaging apparatus according to the authentication information.

5 3. An imaging apparatus as defined in Claim 2, wherein at least the communication means is installed in a dedicated chip that is detachable from the imaging apparatus.

 4. A data communication apparatus connected to an imaging apparatus defined in Claim 1 for sending the selected
10 image data to the addressee by reading the selected image data from the image storage means, the data communication apparatus comprising:

 communication means for carrying out data communication with wireless communication equipment;

15 addressee storage means for storing the addressee;

 authentication information storage means for storing authentication information that is necessary for carrying out the data communication with the wireless communication equipment; and

20 control means for controlling the communication means so as to send the authentication information stored in the authentication information storage means to the wireless communication equipment by carrying out the data communication with the wireless communication equipment and so as to send the
25 selected image data to the addressee via the wireless LAN

communication equipment after the wireless communication equipment authenticates the data communication apparatus according to the authentication information.

5 4, further comprising recharging means for recharging the imaging apparatus.

6. An imaging apparatus comprising:

image capturing means for obtaining image data;

10 image selection means for selecting a desired portion of the image data as selected image data for generating printed matter therefrom;

image storage means comprising a first storage area for storing the selected image data and a second storage area for storing the remaining image data; and

15 image output means for outputting the selected image data to an external apparatus that generates the printed matter, by reading the selected image data from the first storage area.

7. An imaging apparatus as defined in Claim 6, further comprising:

20 image processing means for obtaining processed image data by carrying out image processing on the remaining image data stored in the second storage area of the image storage means, wherein

the image selection means receives selection as the
25 selected image data from the remaining image data from which

the processed image data have been generated.

8. An imaging apparatus defined in Claim 6, further comprising:

communication means for sending the remaining image data
5 stored in the second storage area in the image storage means
to external image processing means that obtains processed image
data by carrying out image processing on the image data, and
for receiving the processed image data, wherein

the image selection means receives selection as the
10 selected image data from the remaining image data from which
the processed image data have been generated.

9. An imaging apparatus as defined in Claim 6, wherein
the image output means is also means for deleting the selected
image data from the first storage area in the image storage means
15 after outputting the selected image data.

10. An imaging apparatus as defined in Claim 9, further
comprising thumbnail image generation means for generating
thumbnail image data of the selected image data and for storing
the thumbnail image data in the image storage means.

20 11. An imaging apparatus as defined in Claim 6, further
comprising:

order information generation means for generating order
information representing the content of an order regarding the
selected image data, wherein

25 the image output means is means for outputting the order

information together with the selected image data.

12. An imaging apparatus defined in Claim 11, further comprising order information storage means for storing the order information after the selected image data have been sent.

5 13. An imaging apparatus comprising:

image capturing means for obtaining image data;

image selection means for selecting a desired portion of the image data as selected image data for generating printed matter therefrom;

10 image storage means comprising a first storage area for storing the selected image data and a second storage area for storing the remaining image data;

image output means for outputting the selected image data to an external apparatus that generates the printed matter, by
15 reading the selected image data from the first storage area;
and

control means for carrying out judgment as to whether or not the communication means is within a communicable range of the wireless communication equipment and for controlling the
20 image output means so as to have the same send the selected image data to the external apparatus that generates the printed matter when it is judged by the control means that the communication means is within the communicable range of the wireless communication equipment.

25 14. An imaging apparatus comprising:

a camera housing,
an image capturing system provided in the housing for
obtaining image data;

a manually operable print order button provided on the
5 camera body for selecting a desired portion of the image data
to be sent to an addressee that generates printed matter
therefrom; and

an image output system provided in the camera body for
outputting the selected image data to the addressee that
10 generates the printed matter.